

CLAIMS AS AMENDED WITHOUT MARKUPS

1-17, 20-22, and 32-35. (Cancelled).

25-31. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for treating heart failure associated with the loss of cardiac muscle contractility comprising:

delivering an expression construct to myocytes therein, wherein the expression construct provides an expressible polynucleotide encoding a phospholamban molecule having a single point mutation consisting of S16E or a double point mutation consisting of K3ER14E, wherein expression of the polynucleotide accelerates SERCA2 mediated calcium ion transport in the treated myocytes to improve cardiac muscle contractility.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the expression construct is a viral vector.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the effect of the mutation is to diminish phospholamban inhibition of SERCA2 activity.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the viral vector is a DNA vector.